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reason for seeking vengeance upon Don Carlos, that the father of the latter has caused his (Hernani's) father to be executed on the scaffold (vv. 118, 567, 1728, 1729). It is possible that the following incident in the history of Aragon served as the basis of this feature in the play of "Hernani."

The King Juan II. of Aragon in the year 1476 had given to Don Alonso, his natural son and hence half-brother of Ferdinand the Catholic, the *baronia* of Arenos in the kingdom of Valencia; and Don Jayme of Aragon, nephew of the latter, duke of Gandia, count of Ribogorza and Denia, put himself in possession of Villahermosa, chief town in the above-mentioned baronage. His father had been dispossessed of Arenos, but Don Jayme advanced a claim that this province belonged by right to the first-born of his family, and that if his father had committed deeds for which *he* had been justly deposed, these reasons could in no wise attach to him. Don Gomez Suarez de Figueroa and other captains hastened to the spot, to oppose him in the name of the king. Don Jayme was declared a rebel and condemned to death. His title was taken from him and given to Don Alonso of Aragon, who was created duke of Villahermosa. Don Jayme defended himself for a long time, but want of food and drink finally forced him to surrender. He was taken to Barcelona and publicly executed as a notorious rebel (1479). His title and possessions were given to Don Juan of Aragon, son of the duke of Villahermosa. (ZURITA, 'Anales de Aragon,' Zaragoza 1610, vol. iv, libro xix, cap. lxi; and libro xx, cap. iv.)

Allowance being made for the liberty of the poet, the above episodes may be regarded as furnishing the key to VICTOR HUGO's remark above quoted, "que le fait principal du drame de *Hernani*, lequel sert de base au dénouement, est historique." Hernani is the 'rey encubierto.' In the play he calls himself John of Aragon, and does not claim to be the son of the infante Don Juan, but that of Jayme of Aragon, the only prince of Aragon to my knowledge publicly beheaded during the time demanded by our drama. The father of Charles V. is not taken into account at all, and for Don Alonso, to whom the possessions

of Don Jayme were granted, is substituted his half-brother Ferdinand, at the time king of Aragon, who condemned Don Jayme to death. To be sure, the names of the play differ from those of history, but V. HUGO himself changed his mind in regard to them during the composition of the play. Among the variants of the *édition définitive* occur the following lines:

Ce Hernani, dit-on, n'est autre que don Jorge
D'Aragon, se disant duc de Segorbe, né
Dans l'exil, fils proscrit d'un père infortuné
Qui, pour avoir aimé la reine comme une autre
Finit sur l'échafaud sa lutte avec le vôtre.

Here the name *Jorge* is employed as a suitable rhyme with *forge* in the preceding line, and the cause of the father's death is changed as well. The play now merely says,

'Les pères ont lutté sans pitié, sans remords
Trente ans.'

From this, it follows plainly that such minor divergences may be disregarded, in attempting to determine the historical basis of the plot.

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NOTES ON AMERICAN PRONUNCIATION.

IN October, 1890, I sent to all the members of the Modern Language Association and the American Dialect Society, and to some other persons, a circular containing questions about their usual pronunciation of certain English sounds. My object was not dialect study in the common sense of this term: what I wished was to ascertain some facts regarding the pronunciation of educated Americans in various parts of our country. The dictionaries, which, as a rule, simply copy one another, afford little or no clue to our actual speech. An investigation in this line is, therefore, in my opinion, necessarily the first step in the work of a society devoted to phonetics. Such research will be doubly useful if it helps to remind Americans that they have a native language, and that they can better acquire a good pronunciation by listening to cultivated American speakers than by making an oracle of the dictionary.

Of the 180 responses that I received to my 500 circulars, I left out of account, for obvious reasons, thirteen very interesting ones from foreigners; and, as many persons who replied to the circular omitted some of the items, the average number of registered answers to each question is only about 155. They come from 25 States and Nova Scotia. New York and eastern Massachusetts make a very satisfactory showing; Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maine and Connecticut are fairly well represented; the returns from other parts of the country are rather scanty. Readers should bear these facts in mind while examining the figures that follow.

The answers were, in nearly all cases, apparently made with perfect frankness and with the greatest care. As they were often accompanied by explanatory notes, I have been able to gather much useful information in addition to the facts for which I was searching. I have now nearly ready materials for two more circulars. The combined results of these three investigations will, I think, throw some light on the principal variations in the speech of well-bred Americans.

The characters I use in this report are those of the American Dialect Society: $a=a$ in 'father,' $v=u$ in 'hut,' $\alpha=a$ in 'hat,' $e=e$ in 'pet,' $\tilde{e}=u$ in 'hurt,' $\vartheta=e$ in 'butter,' $i=i$ in 'hit,' $i=ea$ in 'heat,' $o=o$ in 'hot,' $\delta=o$ in 'hole,' $\delta=o$ in New England 'whole,' $\vartheta=au$ in 'haul,' $u=u$ in 'pull,' $\tilde{u}=oo$ in 'pool.' To these I have added \tilde{z} , representing a sound intermediate between i and i ; and \tilde{z} , denoting a vowel between e and α . By a "rounded" vowel I mean one pronounced with the corners of the mouth closed. I designate by the term "Middle States" New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania; my "West" consists of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio; my "South" comprises Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia.

I. AMERICAN VOWELS.

v.

Among all my correspondents I find only eight who seem to have the "back" v , which is, I suppose, the usual one in England. They are all from Massachusetts or further north.

It may, perhaps, safely be said that our ordinary v is pronounced further forward, and is more akin to \tilde{e} than is the v of England.

α and e .

Out of 153 persons thirty, twenty-five of whom are from New England or the Middle States, say that they do not make a very great distinction between e and α . They probably use \tilde{e} for e . This is, according to SWEET, the case in North English and Scotch.

\tilde{e} .

It appears that 75% of us round the \tilde{e} . The unrounded \tilde{e} 's seem to be rather evenly distributed through the States. Virginia, however, has but one unrounded \tilde{e} out of eleven. I can find in SWEET no mention of a round \tilde{e} in England.

o .

In the greater part of the United States o (as in 'hot'), which in England seems to be always round, is usually unrounded. In New York I find only two cases of rounding, out of 23. From this State to Maine there seems to be a gradation: in Connecticut, western Massachusetts and Vermont unrounded o appears to prevail; while in Rhode Island, eastern Massachusetts, and Maine rounding is evidently the rule. The returns are as follows: for rounded o 70% in New England, 16% in the Middle States, 19% in the West, 26% in the South.

oi .

On the question regarding the first element of the diphthong oi (as in 'boy'), the percentages in New England and the Middle States are: δ or δ , 36%; ϑ , 55%; o , 9%. The West and South are almost unanimous for ϑ . In England, according to Sweet, the sound is a "wide" δ , sometimes an oi .

2. VOWELS BEFORE R.

According to my answers, r before a consonant is regularly pronounced as r by 81% of the careful speakers in the West, 64% in the Middle States,* 37% in New England, and 24% in the South. It is, however, probable that many of the New Englanders and Southerners

* Professor LANMAN, of Harvard, tells me that the vowel he heard from Englishmen in India was regularly o .

* R is, I think, pronounced almost universally in western and central New York and in southern New Jersey.

who report themselves as pronouncing the *r* really sound it only occasionally. In calculating the following percentages, I have assumed that persons who habitually pronounce *r* before a consonant pronounce final *r* also.

e or ë before r + vowel.

English accented *v* before *r* + vowel is pronounced *ë* by many Americans. For the words containing this combination (I added 'squirrel' to the list) the returns are as follows: *v* in all the words, or all but one, 42%; *ë* in all, or all but one, 40%; *v* in some, *ë* in others, 18%. In New York the figures are 40, 40, 20. In eastern Massachusetts and, apparently, Pennsylvania and New York City about two-thirds of the people give an *v*; the South inclines toward *ë*, which is decidedly the favorite in the West. The one word that forms the exception in the first two classes is in 21 instances 'squirrel,' in a few scattering cases 'borough,' 'thorough,' or 'worry.' Eight of my correspondents (six of them from Boston) say *skwiril*, probably an artificial pronunciation.

ë.

I have already given the general figures for the rounding of *ë*. It remains to be seen whether the vowel is affected by the presence or absence of the *r*: *ë* is rounded, where *r* is pronounced, in 69% of the cases; where *r* is not pronounced, in 78%. It does not, however, necessarily follow that the insertion or retention of *r* is the cause of this difference.

e, ë, or æ before final r.

In words riming with 'there': *e*, 20%; *ë*, 26%; *æ*, 54%. In Massachusetts, New York and Ohio the proportions are about the same as in the general average; in Virginia seven-elevenths of the answers show *æ*, in Pennsylvania only three-elevenths. Where *r* is pronounced as *r* we find: *e*, 22%; *ë*, 25%; *æ*, 53%; where *r* is sounded *ɹ*: *e*, 14%; *ë*, 24%; *æ*, 62%.

i, î, or i before final r.

In words riming with 'here': *i*, 31%; *î*, 38%; *i*, 31%. Massachusetts favors *î*, New York *i*; nobody has reported an *i* from New York City. In the Carolinas and Louisiana the pronunciation of 'here' is stated as *hyv*; one Virginian gives the same thing. Another

Virginian, one contributor from South Carolina, and two from Maryland give *hyeɹ*.³ Where *r=ɹ* we have *i*, 34%; *î*, 32%; *i*, 34%; where *r=ɹ*: *i*, 25%; *î*, 48%; *i*, 27%.

ò, ô, or ɔ before final r or ær.

In derivatives from words ending in *ò* (as 'blower,' from 'blow') all my contributors but two give *ò* or *ò*.⁴ In words like 'core,' 'door' I find that *ɔ* is regular in New York City and common in the vicinity of Boston, but rare in the rest of the country. From all the West and South I have received only three cases of *ɔ*, two of them from Maryland and one from Indiana.

ò, ô, or ɔ before r + vowel.

Those who pronounce *ɔ* in words that rime with 'door' generally give the same sound in derivatives from such words (as 'flooring,' 'gory,' 'roarer,' 'storage'), and about half of them pronounce *ɔ* before *r* + vowel in words that are not felt to be derivatives (as 'chorus,' 'story'); other persons have, with only one or two exceptions, *ò* or *ò* in both sets of words.

ò, ô, or ɔ before r + consonant.

In words like 'court,' 'fort,' 'source,' the general average is: *òr* or *òr*, 40%; *òɔ* or *òɔ*, 43%; *ɔr*, 5%; *ɔɔ*, 5%; *ɔ*, 7%. Persons belonging to the last category make no distinction between 'court' and 'caught.' Those who pronounce *ɔr*, *ɔɔ*, *ɔ* are chiefly from the vicinity of New York City and Boston. The South, except Maryland, is almost unanimous for *òɔ*. The West favors *òr* or *òr*.

o before r + consonant.

For words like 'sort' we have: *ɔr*, 46%; *ɔɔ*, 23%; *ɔ*, 31%. It appears that in eastern Massachusetts, New York City and the South about half of the cultivated people say *ɔ*, making no distinction between 'sort' and 'sought.'

³ During a journey through Maryland, western Virginia and eastern and central Tennessee I heard *yia*, *yia*, *yê* and *yv*, but very seldom any form with *h*. The commonest pronunciation seemed to be *yê*.

⁴ In my circular I made no endeavor to distinguish between *ò* and *ò*, as I feared that such an attempt would merely confuse most readers. I therefore chose as a key-word 'whole,' which, in the greater part of the United States, admits of two pronunciations, *hòl* and *hòl*.

Pennsylvania and the West are almost unanimous for *ur*.

or and ɔ before consonant: distinctions.

Of the persons who answered my circular 73% make a distinction between 'borne' and 'born,' 77% between 'coarse' and 'corse,' 81% between 'hoarse' and 'horse,' and 81% between 'mourn' and 'morn,' the first word of every pair being pronounced with *δ* or *ɔ*. About half of those who make no distinction are from the neighborhood of New York City or Boston, and more than half always pronounce *ɔ* before *r* (unless a vowel follows).

Out of some 160 persons only five distinguish between 'course' and 'coarse,' 10 between the second syllable of 'afford' and 'ford,' four between 'forth' and 'fourth,' 29 between 'hoard' and 'horde.'

û, u, ô, ò, or ɔ before final r.

'Poor' is, perhaps the best example to use as a type of words ending in *ur*. The general percentages are: *û*, 61%; *u*, 30%; *ô*, *ò*, *ɔ*, 9%; where *r=r*: *û*, 76%; *u*, 23%; *ɔ*, 1%; where *r=ɔ*: *û*, 54%; *u*, 30%; *ô* or *ò*, 16%. In the South, where the popular form of all these words seems to be *pɔɔ* (or *pô*), etc., we find: *û*, 48%; *ô*, 48%; *ɔ*, 4%.

For 'sure' the returns are: *û*, 54%; *u*, 39%; *ô*, *ò*, *ɔ*, 7%; in the South: *û* or *u*, 59%; *ô* or *ɔ* 41%.

For 'your' the results are somewhat different: correspondents from the West all give *û* or *u*; from the Middle States all but three give *û* or *u*; from Connecticut all give *û* or *u*; but from the rest of New England 67% are for *û* or *u*, 33% for *ô* or *ɔ*; and from the South, 8% for *û*, 84% for *ô*, 8% for *ɔ*. The general percentages are: *û*, 40%; *u*, 30%; *ô* or *ò*, 20%; *ɔ*, 10%. The *ɔ* seems to be particularly common in the vicinity of Boston.

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**SOME PECULIARITIES OF GENDER
IN THE MODERN PICARD
DIALECT.**

CHANGES in gender in the Romance languages have been produced chiefly by two causes: the influence of words having a like sound

or of words of which the termination has a like sound, and the influence of words having a meaning such that they call into the mind at the same time other words through the principle of association of ideas. Briefly stated, the two influences are those of sound-analogy and association of ideas. These two principles explain most of the gender changes in Picard. *Malice* in French became masculine through the phonetic influence of *vice* and other masculine words ending in *-ice*; *étude* in French became feminine through the influence of other feminines ending in *-ude*. Through the influence of the association of ideas *mer* became feminine by affiliation with *terre*; under the same influence *minuit* became masculine, through association with *midi*.

The words in the list I give, may be divided into two classes: (1) dialect words corresponding to French words which also at some period changed their gender, and (2) words which have changed in Picard but not in French.

The following words are feminine in Picard: *ɛspaš*—SPATIUM. Examples are given by LITTRÉ¹ of its use in the feminine in the French of the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. DARMESTETER and HATZFELD² also give examples from MAROT and CALVIN of its use in the feminine. The change in gender is due to the influence of words of like termination, such as *plas*, *faš*, *grimaš*, etc.

ɛgzɛp—EXEMPLUM. An example of this word used in the feminine is cited by LITTRÉ from the eleventh century. D. & H. give an example of its use in the feminine by MONTAIGNE, and also cite VAUGELAS as authority for the statement that it was generally of that gender in Paris in his time.

ɛvāzil—EVANGELIUM. This is found also by LITTRÉ used in the feminine in the thirteenth century, and by D. & H. in the sixteenth. The change in gender is due either to the influence of words of like ending, such as *pile*, *ville*, *pupille*, etc., or to association with *Bible*.

¹ When LITTRÉ is mentioned in this article his 'Dictionnaire de la langue française,' s.v., is referred to.

² When D. & H. are referred to, it is their work on 'Le seizième siècle en France,' pp. 246-250, that is cited.